

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 were cancelled without prejudice, and claims 45-60 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the new claims. For instance, support for the new claims appears e.g. at page 3, line 26 through page 4, line 2; page 4, line 28 through page 6, line 15; and the original claims of the application.

Applicants hereby affirm the election to the Restriction Requirement, as that election is noted in the Office Action.

It is believed the amendments made herein obviate the formal-type objections to claim 5 and certain claims under Rule 75(c).

Claims 1-2, 5, 24-25 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Pawlowski (EP 1033624).

While Applicants disagree with the rejection, claim 45 (the only pending independent claim) recites features of claim 3, which claim was not rejected over Pawlowski.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claims 1-4, 24-27 and 31-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Sachdev (U.S. Patent 5,296332). The rejection is traversed.

Sachdev reports a certain *negative-acting* photoresist composition, which contains certain phenolic resin and crosslinking agent.

In distinction, Applicants' claim 45 (the only pending independent claim) calls for a chemically-amplified positive-acting photoresist composition that comprises a resin comprising photoacid-labile groups.

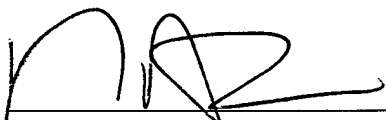
Such chemically-amplified positive-acting photoresists are preferred aspects of the invention, as discussed for instance at page 4, line 28 through page 5 of the application.

Accordingly, the rejection is properly withdrawn. See *In re Marshall*, 198 USPQ 344, 346, (CCPA 1978)("[r]ejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 are proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically disclosed or described in the prior art.")

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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